

Amendment and Response

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Confirmation No.: 9447

Filed: 30 March 2001

For: WEB HAVING DISCRETE STEM REGIONS

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the above-identified application:

1. – 20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) A web construction comprising:

a web coextensive with the web construction, wherein the web comprises two opposing sides and an indefinite length;

a plurality of discrete polymeric regions fused to a first major side of the web; and

a plurality of stems extending from each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of polymeric regions.

22. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein the web comprises loop structures adapted to lock with the plurality of stems.

23. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein the web comprises an elastic web.

24. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein the web comprises fibrous material.

25. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein the web comprises a porous web.

26. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein the web comprises woven web material.

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27. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein the web comprises nonwoven web material.

28. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein the web comprises knit web material.

29. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of discrete regions comprises a plurality of stripes extending over the first major side of the web.

30. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of discrete regions comprises a plurality of patches on the first major side of the web.

31. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein the web defines a localized plane, and wherein the plurality of stems is oriented at an angle that is not normal to the localized plane.

32. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein the web defines a localized plane, and wherein the plurality of stems is oriented at an angle that is not normal to the localized plane, and further wherein the plurality of stems is angled in multiple directions.

33. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein the web defines a localized plane, and wherein the plurality of stems is oriented at an angle that is not normal to the localized plane, and further wherein the plurality of stems is angled in the same direction.

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34. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of discrete regions covers between 1 and 99 percent of the first major side of the web.
35. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of discrete regions covers between 20 and 80 percent of the first major side of the web.
36. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of discrete regions covers between 5 and 25 percent of the first major side of the web.
37. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein the plurality of discrete regions is separated from one another by an average of approximately 0.05 and 30 centimeters.
38. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a mushroom head.
39. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 21, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a hook.
40. (Previously Presented) A web construction comprising:
an elastic web coextensive with the web construction;
a plurality of discrete polymeric regions fused to a first major side of the web; and
a plurality of stems extending from each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of polymeric regions, wherein the web defines a localized plane, and wherein the plurality of stems is oriented at an angle that is not normal to the localized plane.

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41. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 40, wherein the web defines a localized plane, and wherein the plurality of stems is oriented at an angle that is not normal to the localized plane, and further wherein the plurality of stems is angled in multiple directions.
42. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 40, wherein the web defines a localized plane, and wherein the plurality of stems is oriented at an angle that is not normal to the localized plane, and further wherein the plurality of stems is angled in the same direction.
43. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 40, wherein the plurality of discrete regions comprises a plurality of stripes extending over the first major side of the web.
44. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 40, wherein the plurality of discrete regions comprises a plurality of patches on the first major side of the web.
45. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 40, wherein the web comprises loop structures adapted to lock with the plurality of stems.
46. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 40, wherein the web comprises fibrous material.
47. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 40, wherein the web comprises a porous web.

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48. (Previously Presented) A web construction comprising:
an elastic web comprising loop structures, wherein the elastic web is coextensive with the web construction;
a plurality of discrete polymeric regions fused to a first major side of the web; and
a plurality of stems extending from each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of polymeric regions, wherein the plurality of stems is adapted to lock with the loop structures of the web.
49. (Canceled)
50. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 48, wherein the web comprises fibrous material.
51. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 48, wherein the plurality of discrete regions comprises a plurality of stripes extending over the first major side of the web.
52. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 48, wherein the plurality of discrete regions comprises a plurality of patches on the first major side of the web.
53. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 48, wherein the web defines a localized plane, and wherein the plurality of stems is oriented at an angle that is not normal to the localized plane.
54. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 48, wherein the web defines a localized plane, and wherein the plurality of stems is oriented at an angle that is not normal to the localized plane, and further wherein the plurality of stems is angled in multiple directions.

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55. (Previously Presented) A web construction according to claim 48, wherein the web defines a localized plane, and wherein the plurality of stems is oriented at an angle that is not normal to the localized plane, and further wherein the plurality of stems is angled in the same direction.

56. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener comprising:

a nonwoven web with at least one discrete polymeric region fused to a first major side of the nonwoven web such that polymer of the at least one discrete polymeric region is entangled with a fibrous surface of the nonwoven web; and

a plurality of stems extending from the at least one discrete polymeric region.

57. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 56, wherein the nonwoven web comprises a composite comprising a film layer.

58. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 56, wherein the nonwoven web comprises an elastic web.

59. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 56, wherein the at least one discrete polymeric region is surrounded by exposed portions of the nonwoven web.

60. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 56, wherein the at least one discrete polymeric region comprises a stripe extending over the first major side of the nonwoven web.

61. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 56, wherein the at least one discrete polymeric region comprises a plurality of discrete polymeric regions on the first major side of the nonwoven web.

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62. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 61 wherein the plurality of discrete polymeric patches are separated from one another by an average of approximately 0.05 to 30 centimeters.

63. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 56, wherein the at least one discrete polymeric region covers between 1 and 99 percent of the first major side of the nonwoven web.

64. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 56 wherein the at least one discrete polymer region covers between 20 and 80 percent of the first major side of the nonwoven web.

65. (Previously Presented) mechanical fastener according to claim 56, wherein the at least one discrete polymer region covers between 5 and 25 percent of the first major side of the nonwoven web.

66. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 56, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a mushroom head.

67. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 56, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a hook.

68. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 56, wherein the mechanical fastener comprises a diaper fastener.

69. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 57, wherein the nonwoven web comprises elastic material.

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70. (Previously Presented) A mechanical fastener according to claim 60, wherein the stripe extends in a transverse direction across the nonwoven web.